

COUNTY OF YORK

MEMORANDUM

DATE: April 29, 2005 (BOS Mtg. 5/17/05)

TO: York County Board of Supervisors

FROM: James O. McReynolds, County Administrator

SUBJECT: Through Truck Restriction on Coventry and Owen Davis Boulevards and Other Streets in Coventry and Patriot's Village

Issue

The President of the Coventry Homeowners Association has requested that York County take the steps necessary to prohibit through truck traffic on Coventry and Owen Davis Boulevards and through the Davis Forge and Patriot's Village neighborhoods. By including these two neighborhoods, the streets on which the "No Through Trucks" restriction is requested would be:

- Coventry Boulevard – between Route 17 and Owen Davis Boulevard
- Owen Davis Boulevard – between Coventry Boulevard and Route 134
- Ferrier Place – between Owen Davis Boulevard and Blacksmith Arch
- Blacksmith Arch – between Owen Davis Boulevard and Ferrier Place
- Patriot Way – between Blacksmith Arch and Militia Court
- Militia Court – between Patriot Way and Liberty Drive
- Liberty Drive – between Militia Court and Big Bethel Road

Although submitted by the Coventry HOA, the request has been discussed and coordinated with several residents of Patriot's Village, which does not have an organized association.

In accordance with VDOT procedures, any request for establishment of No Through Trucks restrictions on County roadways must originate from the Board of Supervisors subsequent to the Board conducting a duly advertised public hearing. Upon receipt of the request, VDOT will review the proposed restriction against the following criteria. At least three of the five factors must be met in order for the restriction to be approved.

- Is there a reasonable alternate route available that will not create an undue hardship for trucks in reaching their destination? Is the alternate route properly engineered for truck traffic?

The HOA and residents of Coventry and Patriot's Village have reported observing large trucks traveling through the area via these routes. Typically, the trucks are traveling between Big Bethel Road and Route 17 with no service or delivery stops in either Coventry or Patriot's Village. Doing so allows them to avoid the congestion along the arterial routes Big Bethel Road, Route 134, Route 171 and Route 17. However, the neighborhood streets (Ferrier Place,

Blacksmith Arch, Patriot Way, Militia Court, Liberty Drive) and the residential collectors (Owen Davis and Coventry Boulevards) were not designed or intended for through trucks. Staff concurs with the residents' concerns and believes that Routes 17, 171 and 134 provide a much more appropriate and well-suited alternate route capable of handling large truck traffic.

- Is the road requested for restriction functionally classified as a local or collector street?

*VDOT considers Owen Davis and Coventry Boulevards to be **collector** streets and Ferrier Place, Blacksmith Arch, Patriot Way, Militia Court, Liberty Drive to be **local** streets*

- Is the character and/or frequency of the truck traffic incompatible with the character of the area?

Coventry and Owen Davis Boulevards bisect the Coventry planned development. Pedestrian and bike paths connect the various residential neighborhoods in Coventry with the community's recreational areas and with Coventry Elementary School, and crossing both streets is necessary depending on destinations. Frequent heavy truck traffic is not compatible with the pedestrian movements or the residential character of the streets. In addition, the narrow width of the road surface on the other referenced streets is not suited to truck traffic. In staff's opinion, any amount of through truck traffic is inconsistent with the residential character of the area.

- Is the engineering and/or accident history of the roadway such that it is not suitable for truck traffic?

All of the "local" streets are narrow and in some locations it is even difficult for two passenger vehicles to pass. Additionally, the "choker" (a traffic calming measure authorized by VDOT) on Patriot Way narrows to a single lane. While Coventry and Owen Davis Boulevards are wider, they are not designed or constructed to serve as through truck routes. Particularly on the local streets, turning radii are such that frequent heavy truck movements cannot be made without damage to road shoulders, signs and drainage facilities. In comparison, the alternate route – Route 17, Route 171, Route 134, Big Bethel Road – can accommodate heavy truck movements.

- Within 150 feet of the centerline, are there at least 12 dwellings per 1000 feet of roadway?

Residential development along and within 150 feet of the centerline of the subject streets ranges in density from approximately 12 to 28 dwellings per 1000 feet.

It is staff's opinion that all of the five required criteria are met. However, this

determination must be made by VDOT subsequent to review of engineering, traffic volume and accident records by its District and State Traffic Engineers. After that review and analysis, VDOT must also publish notice of the proposed restriction and provide a thirty-day comment period prior to a final decision being made by the Commonwealth Transportation Board.

Recommendation

I believe that the requested No Through Trucks restriction is reasonable given the character and condition of the referenced streets within the Coventry and Patriot Village neighborhoods and the availability of a well-suited alternate route – Route 17, Route 171, Route 134, Big Bethel Road – that is designed to carry commercial/industrial truck traffic. Therefore, I recommend that the Board submit this request for formal review and consideration by VDOT. This can be accomplished through the adoption of proposed Resolution No. R05-98.

Carter/3337:jmc

Attachments

- Copy of letter from Janine Casey, Coventry HOA President
- Vicinity Map
- Proposed Resolution No. R05-98